

FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN EXPRESSES HIS VIEWS ON
THE SITUATION IN WHICH JAPAN IS COMPELLED TO
RESORT TO SELF-PROTECTING MEASURES. (July 27 1947)

I regret to say that on account of the increasingly hostile attitude of the 29th Army, the Japanese military authorities on the spot have been finally forced to abandon their hope for a peaceful settlement. The conditions in the Peiping and Tientsin areas have become as menacing to the lives and property of Japanese national as well as to the comparatively small force of the Garrison troops stationed there, that it has now become necessary to commence operations with a view to impress upon the Chinese soldiers the urgent necessity of keeping pledges and agreements which they themselves have made and failed to observe.

All of you are fully aware, I believe, of the Japanese Government's policy of nonaggravation and local settlement of the incident. In spite of the reported preventive actions of the Chinese armies, our local military authorities, in pursuance of that policy, have hitherto always maintained an attitude of utmost patience and restraint.

On July 9, the Chinese, after lodging withdrawal of their troops from Lukouchiao, increased their forces there instead, and even went so far as to fire upon the Japanese.

On July 11, the representatives of the 29th Army, Generals Chang Tsuchung and Chang Yunjung, submitted a signed note to the Japanese authorities by which they accepted and promised to execute the 3-point terms of settlement. However, instead of faithfully carrying out these promises, as was expected by the Japanese, the troops of the 29th Army continued to act as if their written pledge were a scrap of paper. A series of armed clashes resulting from Chinese provocations caused considerable casualties on our side. The patience of the Japanese Garrison authorities was thus severely tried and well-nigh exhausted by these continuous Chinese outrages. They therefore notified the Chinese authorities that if such hostilities continued, the Japanese would be compelled to resort to freedom of action in self-defence. This firm attitude seemed for the time being to have impressed the Chinese who signed another agreement on July 19 -- this was made public by the Foreign Office authorities at the time.

With this agreement, we felt quite satisfied that a final settlement on the spot was well in sight. But again the Chinese violated their pledge on the night of July 25 by firing upon our detachment sent to Lang Fang for repairing military telegraph wires which had been cut by the Chinese. No sooner had this affair come to an end, there occurred the

Fuung-an Men affair. The 29th Army has now demonstrated beyond any shadow of a doubt their unreliability.

These reported outrages are nothing but the expression of the fundamental hostile anti-Japanese sentiment of the 29th Army and it can never be removed by peaceful persuasion or remonstration. The unwarranted firing upon our force by the troops of the 38th Division under Chang Tschung, whom the Japanese had regarded as being trustworthy and capable of cooperation, was the last straw.

The circumstances being such, the only thing that can be done effectively by the Japanese to assure the safety of our rights and interests lies in taking firm and decisive measures.

The time limit set in the demand made on the 26th instant by the commander of the local Japanese Garrison regarding the withdrawal of the Chinese troops was due to expire at noon today. However, mere withdrawal of the 37th Division is now deemed wholly insufficient to insure the safety of the Garrison as well as of the lives and properties of our nationals.

As for foreigners in the Peiping area, our authorities have already taken steps necessary for their protection.

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The Japanese Army intends to avoid as far as possible the extension of hostilities to Peiping. The fate of the city depends entirely upon the attitude and action of the Chinese troops there.

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, KATSU, Katsuo, Chief of the Archives Section,
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document
hereby attached in English consisting of 4 pages and
entitled "Foreign Office Spokesman expressed his views on the
situation in which Japan was compelled to resort to Self-
protecting Measures. (July 27, 1937)"
is an exact and true copy of an official document of the
Japanese Foreign Office

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April 1947.

(signed) K. HAYASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) K. URABE

外務省情報部長の發表せる日本をして自衛手段に出でざるを得ざらしめた状勢に處する見解（一九三七年七月二十七日）

第二十九軍のいや増す嘗試的態度のため遣詔をから現地日本當局は遂に平和解決に對する希望を放棄するの止むなきに至つた。北支及天津地區に於ける状勢は該地區に駐屯の比較的小少力の守備隊にてとつて又日本住民の生命財産にも非常に脅威を與ふるやうになりこれがため作戦開始が必要となつたが、これは支那兵に彼等自身か誓約又は協定をしなからこれを破つたことを彼等に銘記せしむるためであつた。

諸君は皆日本政府の事件不擴大と局地解決の政策をよく知つてゐることと信する、中國軍のは次の激發的行動にも拘らず我か地盤當局は前述の政策遂行のためこれまで常に極力忍耐と抑制の態度を維持した。

七月九日支那側は蘆溝橋よりその車を撤去すること誓約しなから却つてその兵力を増強し且つ日本軍に對し發砲することさへもした。

七月十一日第廿九軍代表張自忠、張允榮は署名せる誓簡を日本當局に渡した、これにより彼等は三條項による解決を實行すべきことを受諾し且つ約束

Def Cora 4/11/2

した。併し日本軍の謀叛に反しこれ等の約束を忠實に行せずして却つて第
四九軍は恰も彼等の文書による脅約を一片の紙屑と見做せるが如き行動を取
けた。中國側の攻撃による城壁の武力衝突により日本側は相當の死傷を蒙つ
た。かくして日本守備隊當局の忍耐もこれら支那側の極めて不法行爲により
廢しき武鍛を受け遂に殆んど忍ぶべからざるに至つた。それ故日本側は中
當局でもしかるべき敵對行爲が連續されるならば日本側は自由に自ら行動に任
づるの止むをきに至るべく旨通告した。この所alarに該隊は支那側に一時肝
銃を與へたらしく七月十九日に支那側は更に契約に名した。これは當時外
務省當局が公表した通りである。

この協定により我等は以後の現地解決が有望になつたものとして心足を感
じた。併し中國側は七月廿五日またもやその協定を破り中國人により切口せ
られた。車用電信修理のため郊坊に派遣された日六軍部隊に対して尋問した
この事件が終るや否や門事件が起つた。四九軍は今やその非議喩託
これ等は次の不法行為は第四九軍の根本的排日敵對感情の表現であつて、
これはいかなる平和的勸告や抗議によるも抜くことの出来ない感情である。

日本側が信頼し協同可能な人物と見做して、たゞ自らの指揮下にゐる第三十八師兵によるわが軍に對する不法發砲こそ破滅を來せる後の一歩であつた。

かかる状況下に日本側によりその権益の安全を保障するため效果的になされ得る唯一の事は、諒解手続に訴ふることであつた。

本月廿六日に行はれた、中國兵撤退に關する地圖、日本守備隊よりの要求に附せる期限は、當日正午迄であつた。併し第三十七師の撤退のみでは、日本住民の生命財産は勿論のこと守備隊の安全も保証するには全く不充分と考へられた。

北平地圖で於ける外國人にてては、我が當局は既にその保証に必要な手帳を認じた。日本軍は北平に上陸が及ばないやうに極力努める考へてゐる、司市の運命を全く該地中國軍の威脅及び行動如何によるのである。